(e) what will be the total amount of loss which the local boards and municipalities incur on account of such exemption;

(f) whether they are private lorries or lorries owned by business firms for the purpose of conveying petrol from one place to another;

(g) whether such exemption applies or has been granted to the Standard Oil Company and other similar companies; and

(h) if not, the reasons why the exemption has not been granted to all petrol companies?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) G.Os.[a] No. 781, L. & M., dated 29th February 1932, and No. 1263, L. & M., dated 6th April 1932, are laid on the table.

(d), (e) & (f) The Government have no information.

(g) & (h) The orders quoted above are applicable to all private lorries.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" May I know the reason why the Government thought fit to exempt lorries belonging to the Burmah-Shell Company from the payment of licence fees when they are making money out of them? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The Government made no distinction whatever between these lorries and other lorries. The Committee appointed to examine the incidence of taxation recommended that all private vehicles should be exempted."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" Do the Government think that the lorries owned by the above company are private lorries and are not used in furtherance of their trade? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" As they are not plying for hire, they come under the category of private lorries."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" In view of the fact that these lorries use the roads more frequently than even lorries plying for hire, will the Government revise their order and direct them to pay the usual licence fee? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" If they are hired lorries, certainly they would have to pay."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" Are the lorries employed by other firms for carrying goods also exempt from this tax? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Yes, I think so."

Reintroduction of tolls for non-motor vehicles.

*470 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what percentage of the toll fees was collected from motor and non-motor vehicles respectively in each of the three years preceding the year in which the abolition of tolls came into effect; and

(b) whether the Government have considered the question of reintroducing tolls for non-motor vehicles?

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 252–253 infra.

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A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) of this question, may I know whether the Government ever considered it necessary to obtain information in connexion with the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I do not think it is possible to have that information."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I know whether, in connexion with the examination of the question of the reintroduction of tolls for non-motor vehicles, the Government think of obtaining this information?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I am afraid it is not possible to obtain this information as the receipts from motor vehicles are not separately shown in the books."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—" May I know if even an approximate estimate cannot be got? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Even when the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill was under consideration, the Government made an attempt to get this information, but it was found impossible to get it."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" In answer to (*b*) it is stated that the Government are considering the matter. When they have not got the data on the basis of which they have to consider the matter, what is it that they are considering? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" They have got sufficient data for total receipts, but not accurate information about the receipts from motor vehicles and non-motor vehicles separately."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—" May I know whether approximate figures cannot be got from the various municipalities in connexion with this matter? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I am afraid, no."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—" May I ask the hon. Minister to call for this information? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I will consider the question, but I am afraid it is not possible to get accurate information."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know whether the Government have received representations from the public at large protesting against the introduction of tolls for non-motor vehicles? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Many representations have been received for and against. The question was placed before the Advisory Committee for Local and Municipal Affairs and a decision was taken."

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Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" From whom were representations for the introduction of tolls received? Were they from the municipalities or from the public at large?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Representations were received from municipalities as well as from persons interested in the better upkeep of the roads."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know the names of such persons, Sir?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I cannot give the names off-hand."

Unauthorized improvements to the water works at Trichinopoly.

* 471 *Q*.—Mr. K. Singam Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware if the Chairman, Municipal Council, Trichinopoly, has started the work of the improvements to the Water Works, Trichinopoly, and incurred expenditure to a large extent without the sanction of the Sanitary Engineer and the Government; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*) It has recently been brought to the notice of the Government that there is a scheme of improvements to the Water Works, Trichinopoly, under execution without technical sanction for the same having been accorded by the Sanitary Engineering Department.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. K. Singam Ayyangar:—" May I ask the hon. Minister whether he will be pleased to instruct the Inspector of Municipal Councils not to make expenditure until the sanction of the Sanitary Engineer to Government is obtained?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Government recently got official information that some works have been undertaken and they called for report. As this report is not yet in their hands, it is difficult for them to say what their attitude would be."

Mr. K. Singam Ayyangar:—" I may assure the Government that expenditure is being incurred. When that is the case, may I ask whether the Government will not be pleased to ask their Inspector of Municipal Councils to stop the works at this stage at least?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" We have called for information. The Government must first of all satisfy themselves that such unauthorized expenditure is being incurred."

Mr. K. Singam Ayyangar:—" May I know when the information will be placed before the Council?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It has been called for. It has not been received."